

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An emergency ladder system comprising:
  - a building having multiple floors;
  - a compartment adjacent to said building;
  - an extendable ladder positioned inside said compartment;
  - a door covering said compartment;
  - an alarm assembly including a sensor inside said building for detecting a fire; and
  - said alarm system being operationally coupled to said door and said ladder to open said door and extend said ladder when fire is detected by said sensor.
2. The emergency ladder system of claim 1 further comprising:
  - an alarm bell operationally coupled to said alarm assembly to give an audio warning when said door is open.
3. The emergency ladder system of claim 2, wherein said alarm bell is positioned in said compartment.
4. The emergency ladder system of claim 1 wherein said door includes a caution light that illuminates when said door is opened to expose the compartment.
5. The emergency ladder system of claim 1 wherein said alarm assembly includes at least one of a smoke sensor and a heat sensor.

6. The emergency ladder system of claim 1 wherein said alarm assembly includes both a smoke sensor and a heat sensor for activating said system upon one of said smoke sensor detecting smoke in excess of a pre-determined level and said heat sensor detecting heat above a pre-determined level.

7. The emergency ladder system of claim 1 wherein said ladder is positioned to extend towards an opening into a floor level of said building above a first floor level.

8. The emergency ladder system of claim 1, further comprising:  
a hand rail coupled to said ladder.

9. The emergency ladder system of claim 1, further comprising:  
a support pole extendably coupled to said ladder such that said support pole extends out from said ladder to brace said ladder when said ladder is in an extended position.

10. The emergency ladder system of claim 1 wherein said alarm assembly and said ladder are powered by a direct connection to a power line separate from a power line for said building to prevent failure of said ladder and alarm assembly when power is cut to said building.

11. The emergency ladder system of claim 1 wherein multiple ladders and compartments are employed, each ladder being positioned to extend from a respective compartment to a unique

opening into said building to provide multiple escape routes from said building.

12. The emergency ladder system of claim 1 wherein multiple ladders are positioned within said compartment, each ladder being positioned to extend to a unique opening into said building to provide multiple escape routes from said building.